

CES Environmental Services, Inc. Site Proposed Removal Action

Harris County
Houston, Texas

August 2014

This Fact Sheet will tell you about...

- Background Information
- Potential Threats to Public Health and Welfare
- What to Expect
- For More Information

Background Information

The CES Environmental Services Site is a former chemical recycling facility that filed for bankruptcy in 2010. The property is owned by the CES Bankruptcy Estate "Estate" which is being managed by a Trustee appointed by the Bankruptcy Court. The Trustee's job is to liquidate assets of the Estate for the benefit of the creditors. As you can imagine, liquidating the assets of a facility in the chemical business can be a difficult task if the chemicals were not addressed prior to bankruptcy or soon thereafter.

The Site has recently experienced two incidents of vandalism which occurred in March and July 2014 and has resulted in the spillage of chemicals and waste to the facility property and/or the adjacent residential neighborhood. These spill responses were addressed by the Estate, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the EPA. The Trustee has been and continues to address asset issues of CES Estate. As part of this, the Estate has been addressing waste issues on the Site although adequate funding has not been sufficient. The EPA and TCEQ will begin the process of addressing the waste issues on the property. At the same time, the Estate will complete its ongoing cleanup actions at the Site which include the disposal of 1 vacuum box, 1 roll-off box, and waste piles. The Estate actions for these items are being coordinated with both EPA and TCEQ. The site consists of approximately 11 vacuum boxes, 2 roll-off boxes, 12 frac tanks, 2 Tanker Trailers, 20 above ground storage tanks (ASTs), 15 waste water treatment tanks, waste piles, and numerous totes, vats, drums, and smaller containers.

The Site is located at 4904 Griggs Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas. Other contiguous properties associated with the site are 4900 Griggs Road and 5910 Wayland Street. The Site is surrounded by residential, educational, and commercial properties.

Potential Threats to Public Health and Welfare

There are numerous chemical containers located on-site that have not been actively managed or secured to prevent releases to the environment since prior to August 2010. Additionally, the soil areas of the Site have not been investigated, but are expected to be contaminated as a result of historic operations, as well as recent chemical spills from vandalism.

The contaminants within the containers include: benzene, cresols, 2,4,6-Trichlorophenol, methyl ethyl ketone, 1,2-Dichloroethane, corrosive, and ignitable wastes.

The Site fencing has been repaired to remove open access to the facility. The fencing will not prevent those that want to access the facility from entering to vandalize the facility. Thieves, trespassers, and vandals have caused releases to occur from the containers on-site creating a risk to public health. Additionally, these individuals have compromised the security fencing by stealing fence panels and undermining the security of the facility.

The EPA, TCEQ, and the City of Houston will be working together to eliminate this hazardous facility and condition in your neighborhood. We need your support to make sure that those that are not supposed to be on the property are kept away by notifying the Houston Police Department. Please be vigilant.

What to Expect During the Next Month

The EPA anticipates activities beginning on the Site immediately for sampling and evaluating the chemical containers. The EPA expects to initiate cleanup actions upon approval of the Action Memorandum and obtaining chemical information on the containers that will be needed to dispose of these wastes. It is expected that this will occur in

late August or early September but you will see an almost constant presence on the Site until this action is complete. It is anticipated that this removal cleanup action may last up to six months. CERCLA funds will be utilized for all federal actions on the Site. The response actions anticipated include:

- Removal/disposal of chemicals;
- Removing/disposing of visible chemical spillage to soil and other surfaces

For More Information

If you would like more information about the CES Environmental Services Removal Action, contact:

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